

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 132915
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 EB-08 /023 R

DRAFTED BY COM:BIEPR:TJACKA
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COM/OCA:TKBREWER
COM/OIM:TWELCH
COM/OTP:NMORGAN
STATE/EB:JREILLY
STATE/ARA:WSARGEANT

-----110152 250759Z /11

R 250714Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS STATE 132915

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP,VE

SUBJECT: VISIT OF FIGUEREDO TO USDOC

1. REINALDO FIGUEREDO ON MAY 19 IN A.M. MET WITH SENIOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR TRADE STANLEY MARCUSS, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY DEAN MORAN, AND OTHER OFFICERS OF COMMERCE TO DISCUSS TRADE ISSUES BETWEEN U.S. AND VENEZUELA. DR. FIGUEREDO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR CASANOVA, AMBASSADOR CASTOLLANOS, AND DR. PETROSINI OF THE EMBASSY.

2. MARCUSS BEGAN DISCUSSIONS BY COVERING OUR VIEW OF THE RECENT IMPORT PROHIBITIONS, U.S. FAILURE TO WIN ANY OF THE SIZEABLE MAJOR PROJECTS, GOV REVIEW COMMISSION ON OFFICIAL IMPORTS, AND OPEC OIL PRICING. THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE FACT THAT ALTHOUGH OUR RELATIONS ARE SO CLOSE,
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THERE HAVE ARISEN SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES THAT CREATE PROBLEMS FOR THE U.S. IN VIEW OF OUR LARGE TRADE DEFICIT.

3. IN RESPONSE, DR. FIGUEREDO POINTED UP THE DIFFERENCE IN WAVELENGTHS BETWEEN U.S. AND VENEZUELAN APPROACH. OUR RELUCTANCE ON NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND RELATED THIRD WORLD ISSUES GIVES THEM A FEELING WE ARE WILLING TO

TALK ABOUT SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES, BUT SHOW LITTLE
COMPROMISE ON THE BROADER ISSUES AND TRADE RELATIONS WITH
ANCOM AS A SINGLE ENTITY. ALSO GSP AND OIL TAX ISSUES
MAKE VENEZUELA FEEL IT IS NOT BEING TREATED FAIRLY. HE
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT IS DIFFICULT FOR U.S. TO DEAL
WITH ANCOM AS A SINGLE ENTITY WHEN ANCOM MEMBERS OFTEN
APPEAR TO BE WORKING AT CROSS CURRENTS WITH ONE ANOTHER.

4. FIGUEREDO CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BILATERAL
GROUP TO HANDLE AND DISCUSS TRADE ISSUES BETWEEN VENEZUELA
AND THE U.S. COMMERCE WILL INITIATE INTER-AGENCY DEBATE
ON HIS PROPOSAL.

5. MEETING WAS LIVELY AND VERY FORTHCOMING. FIGUEREDO
REPEATED MANY POINTS MADE TO VAKY PRIOR TO U.S. VISIT.
FIGUEREDO WAS THEN TO VISIT NSC AND STR. CHRISTOPHER

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